

NEWSLETTER

5TH SUNDAY
EASTER

MASS INTENTIONS

May 9, 2020

6pm - Ints of sick and house-bound of our Parish/ those suffering of coronavirus and all healthcare workers

May 10, 2020

11am— People of the Parish
For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

The church remains closed but masses continue to be offered behind the closed door.

Parish Office remains open. Please, contact us in case of any problem caused by the lockdown. We got a team of healthy people ready to help.

Do I Really Know Jesus?

I am reminded of that old saying, familiarity breeds contempt. I can be comfortable with my surroundings, and most often take people for granted. I tend to get wrapped up in the foibles within the family and friends. Often I think I know better than them and can be blinded to the talents that they might possess.

Like the above familiarity can dull our relationship with Jesus. In our Gospel for John, Jesus takes this problem and meets it head-on, so that His disciples could look at the bigger picture. when Philip says, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied'. I can relate to this, for I have asked, I need proof in those moments of doubt. I return again to this gospel and read Jesus's response to Philip, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' 'and you still do not know me? to have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

It's is a good repost to Philip and to me, Why? Because, when I read the gospels and the miracles, the teachings, then I am aware he is in the Father and that eternal life cannot be attained without going through him. This is emphasised in the phrase, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life'. This is very clear He is the only way to the Father and He is the very presence of God on earth. Christians professed an adage, which could be summed as, ' Wherever God acts, God is, In Jesus, God acts because God is.

The Catechism reminds us (CCC 464-469) When the Son of God was born into the world, he made the deliberate choice to limit his abilities as a human person. This is not a contradiction, for the limitations placed upon the unlimited were not imposed by nature, but made by free choice. And the choice was love. The Son of God took upon himself all the limitations of human nature, so he could show the infinite depth of God's love. God's Son became 'Jesus of Nazareth' to reveal his love, to offer that love, and invite humanity into a love relationship. For the sake of love, Jesus of Nazareth was truly man.

Fr. Chris

Spiritual Communion

Jesus!

My God and my All
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to
receive thee in

Holy Communion, come, O Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of
angels to nourish my soul
heal my body and to rejoice my
heart
come most lovable friend of my
soul,
to inflame me with such love
that I may never again be ever
separated from thee. Amen

Late Tom Madden RIP

The Funeral Cortège will be stopping for a few moments at Tom's former residence on Monday 11th May at 5 pm. Those of you who wish to be in front of the building are invited by his nephew James to do so! From the residence, the cortège would proceed to Ireland for burial on Tuesday.

May His Soul and the souls of the faithful departed Rest In Peace. Amen

The Holy Rosary

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has reminded us all to say the Rosary during the month of May. Especially, for all the Health Care Workers, in Hospitals, Care Homes, and those front line workers we remember them when we say the Rosary this month and end to the pandemic.

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Acts 6: 1-7
Psalm 32: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19, response v 22
2nd Reading - 1 Peter 2; 4-9
Gospel – John 14; 1-12

1st Reading; Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17
Psalm 65: 1-7, 16, 20, response v 1
2nd Reading - 1 Peter 3; 15-18
Gospel – John 14; 15-21

Yes, Lord, We Follow You

Let us march forward intrepidly to meet our Redeemer, Jesus, pursuing our onward course without swerving until we come to the assembly of the saints and are welcomed by the company of the just. It is to join our Christian forebears that we are journeying to those who taught us our faith....In the place where the lord will be everyone's light, the true light which enlightens every human person will shine upon all. In the house where we are going the Lord Jesus has prepared many resting places for his servants, so that where he is we also may be. This was his express desire. Listen to his own words: *In my Father's house there are many resting places. And: I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.*

You may say, perhaps, that he was speaking only to his disciples, and it was to them alone that he promised there would be many resting places....And what of that statement of his about people coming from all sides to take their seats in the Kingdom of God? Have we any grounds for doubting that God's will is effective? With Christ, surely, to will, a thing is to accomplish it. In short, the Lord has not only shown us the way we are to travel, but he has also pointed out our destination.

Where I am going you know, he says, and the way there is known to you. This destination is our Father's house, and our way to it is Christ, as his own words assure us; I am the way, the truth, and the life...Let us set out, then, upon this way, holding fast to the truth and following in the footsteps of life. Christ is the way that leads us, the truth that strengthens us, and the life that restores us to life in him.

To make sure that we really understand his will, our Lord prays a few minutes later: Father, it is my desire that those whom you have given me be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory. How graciously our Lord asks his father here to grant what he himself had promised earlier! The promise came first and then the request, not the other way round. conscious of his authority and knowing the gift was at his own disposal, he made the promise; then as if to exemplify his filial submission, he asked his Father to grant it...

Yes, Lord Jesus, we do follow you. But we can only come at your bidding. No one can make the ascent without you, for you are our way, our truth, our life, our strength, our faith, our reward. We belong to you; be the way that carries us onward, the truth that inspires us with courage, and the life that fills us with renewed vigour.

St Nilus of Sinai

To the Cloistered Nuns - A letter from the Desert

We turn to you, sisters living behind walls, to ask for your prayers. We ask during this time of special danger and struggle which our communities are experiencing, that you keep your arms raised like those who did so for Moses on the mountain. Our resilience depends on your insistent intercession, as does our future victory. You are the only Italians not to flinch in the face of the downpour of decrees and restrictions which have drenched us in recent days. This is because what we have been asked to do for a time is what you have always done, and that which we put up with, you have already chosen.

Teach us the art of being content with nothing, of living in a confined space, without going out but yet with the art of being charged with the need for that inner journey which requires neither fresh air nor trains. "Give us some of your oil" so we can learn that the spirit cannot be imprisoned and that the smaller the space, the greater is the opening onto the heavens.

Teach us that it is possible to live with very little and to live in joy. Remind us that poverty is the unavoidable condition of every being because, as Primo Mazzolari has said, "to be poor, we only have to be human." Teach us again about the savour of little things, you who smile at a lily flowering outside the window and who salute the swallows when they come to tell us that spring has arrived, you who are moved by sorrow and yet can still delight in the miracle of bread rising in the oven. Give us back that delight in the small things.

Tell us that it is possible to be close without being together in the one place, that we can communicate from afar, kiss without touching, enrich each other with the caress of a glance or a smile, quite simply, just to look at each other. Remind us that the word is important if it has matured for a long time in the heart, if it has been lightened in the storeroom of the heart, if we see it flower on the lips of another when it is spoken quietly, without shouting or being sharpened to wound. Above all, teach us the art of silence, of the light which touches the windowsill, of the sun who rises 'like a bridegroom coming from his chamber', or the art of the sunset in a heaven tinged with fire, of the evening quiet, of the lit candle which throws a shadow across the walls of the choir.

Tell us again that it is possible to wait for an embrace, even to wait a lifetime, because 'there is a time for embracing and a time a time refrain from embracing' as Quohelth says. President Conte has said that when this time of danger and restriction is over, we will once again embrace with celebration. For you, Sisters, there have already been twenty, thirty, forty years of waiting...

Teach us to do things slowly with solemnity and without rushing, to pay attention to details because every day is a miracle, every encounter is a gift, every step an entrance into the throne room, like the step in a dance or the movement of a symphony

Whisper to us that it is important to wait, to send a kiss, a gift, a caress, a word, because waiting for the feast strengthens the light because 'the best is yet to be'. Help us to understand that an accident can be a grace, and a disappointment can hide a gift, that a parting can deepen the love and that distance can lead to being together finally.

To you, mistresses of the hidden and happy life, we entrust our discomfort, our fear, our remorse, our missed appointments with God who always waits for us. Take all this into your prayer and restore us to joy, to the fragrance of flowers and to days of peace. Amen.

+ Arturo Aiello Avellino, 13 March 2020

Why Pray the Rosary?

A woman was one asked why she prayed the Rosary every day. She looked away for a moment, looked back at her questioner, and replied, "All I can tell you is if I say a Rosary, the day works, and if I don't, nothing works". This is true. It's not true because of some kind of magic or superstitions. It's true because of Mary's maternal intercessions and the power of the mysteries of the life of Christ.

I could spend a lot of time here describing how Pope after Pope has encourage to pray the Rosary, how they've called it one of the most powerful prayers there is after a liturgy, how they've granted a ton of indulgences to those who pray it. I could also tell story after story of how this saint or that one was totally dedicated to praying the Rosary and receiving miracle upon miracle through praying it. Instead of going into all of this, though, I'd like to dwell on just three points: Mary, the battle of prayer, and the significance of the Mysteries.

Mary: During the last two centuries, people have witnessed more Church approved Marian apparitions than during all other centuries combined. Why such an increase? Because of the difficulties of modern time. Mary has been coming to earth and appearing to people in our day to give warnings about bad things that will happen if people don't repent and pray the Rosary.

Our Blessed Mother loves her children and does not want us to suffer calamities, so she encourages us to pray the Rosary. She wants us to experience peace in our families, societies, and nations, so she asks us to pray the Rosary. She desires that sinners be converted and people experience abundant life in Christ, so she tells us to pray the Rosary. Mary has made it very clear, through the testimony of Church-approved apparitions, that she wants us to pray the Rosary. In fact, sometimes, even with tears in her eyes, she pleads with us to pray it. This should be enough for us – yet there's more. The Rosary isn't just an instrument for the world peace.

Praying the Rosary is a place to meet Mary. It's one of the best ways to develop the loving attitude of dependence on her that we learned about during our reading for Consecrations Day. There's something about praying the Rosary that helps us develop a filial attitude of being with Mary. I think this has to do with the peaceful rhythm of the Hail Marys. When we pray the Rosary, the goal is not so much to reflect on the words of the Hail Mary prayer itself. Rather, the Hail Marys are meant to be a kind of "background music" that helps us enter into contemplation of the mysteries. This background music is like the gentle hand of a mother on our shoulders, standing behind us, getting us to look at Jesus, contemplate his face, and love him through his mother's eyes, mind and heart. Praying the Rosary does something to the soul. It allows Mary to shape and to form us according to the image of her Son. Pope John Paul II puts it like this: *"The Rosary mystically transports us to Mary's side as she is busy watching over the human growth of Christ in the home of Nazareth. This enables her to train us and to mold us with the same care."*

To be formed and molded into Christ with the same loving care that Christ himself received from Mary! This is what Marian consecration is all about, and it is why we should pray the Rosary. But how does Mary form and mold us? By the mysteries of the life of her Son and by the lesson of her own humble, loving, and docile attitude before the majesty of God. Pondering and living the mysteries of the Rosary are keys to holiness.

To be continued next week.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day this Friday, 8th May 2020, the Cardinal will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass in Westminster Cathedral, which will be livestreamed. There will be a two-minute's silence at 11am, followed directly by Mass. All are welcome to follow the livestream at any one of the following:

Church services TV directly: <https://www.churchservices.tv/westminster>

Westminster Cathedral home page: <http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/>

Diocesan website (where the livestream will be available from 10.45am): <https://rcdow.org.uk/>

The Mass will also be recorded so that it can also be viewed later.